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MARVEL COMICS is published monthly by MARVEL COMICS, INC. Office of Publication: 169 Pratt Street, Meriden, Conn. Editorial and Business 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Meriden, Conn., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Copyr by MARVEL COMICS, INC. Vol. 1, No. 76, September, 1946 issue. Price 10c per copy. No similarity between any of the names, persons, char institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may ex ccidental. Printed in the U.S.A.

THE HUMAN TORCH

TORCH AND TORO REACH A NEW HIGH IN HECTIC SPINE-TINGLING ADVENTURE WHEN THEY MATCH WITS WITH ---

"The QUEEN of CRIME!"

R*224

FOR MONTHS PAST, THE QUEEN OF CRIME AND HER CRIMINAL COHORTS HAVE CRISSCROSSED THE NATION WITH A SERIES OF BRAZEN MURDEROUS ROBBERIES. HOT ON HER TRAIL, ALWAYS CLOSE BUT JUST MISSING CAPTURING HER, ARE **TORCH** AND **TORO!** IN SPITE OF MADDENING FRUSTRATION, OUR DUO KEEPS UP THE RELENTLESS HUNT--- UNTIL ONE DAY--- THE ETHER CRACKLES WITH AN EAGERLY AWAITED FLASH---

THE NEWSROOM OF A MAJOR NETWORK!

WE INTERRUPT OUR SCHEDULED PROGRAM TO BRING A SENSATIONAL FLASH-- TORCH AND TORO HAVE FINALLY TRAPPED THE QUEEN OF CRIME AND TOGETHER WITH THE POLICE ARE BATTLING HER MURDER MOB IN THE VAULTS OF THE NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY DOWNTOWN...

THE VAULTS OF THE NATIONAL TRUST BANK...

UH--UH! DROP IT, SISTER. YOU'RE WASHED UP!

MY WRIST! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, BRAT!

GOOD WORK, TORO! SHE'S PLENTY TRICKY! HOLD HER WHILE WE FINISH OFF HER HOODS!

YOUR ROUND, TORCH! MY COMPLIMENTS ON YOUR TEMPORARY VICTORY!

TEMPORARY? IT'LL BE PERMANENT WHEN THEY STRAP YOU IN THE HOT SEAT!

SUDDENLY THE CAPTIVE'S BOAST IS CLARIFIED WHEN TWO CARS LOADED WITH WILD SHOOTING THUGS, THUNDER TOWARD THE BANK!

WHAT THE---?

IT'S AN ATTEMPT TO RESCUE HER! QUICK! BACK INTO THE BANK WITH HER!

WAVERING POLICE QUICKLY RALLY AFTER THE INITIAL SURPRISE AND POUR DOWN A MERCILESS FIRE INTO THE RANKS OF THE RESCUERS, CUTTING THEM DOWN ALMOST TO A MAN!

AS THE CAPTIVE IS HUSTLED BACK INTO THE BANK!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

HEY! WHAT THE--? O-O-FFF!

IN MILITARY STRATEGY IT WOULD BE CALLED A DIVERSION! HA! HA!

MY BOYS DIVERT THE POLICE, DRAWING YOUR ATTENTION FROM THE ATTACK OF MY MAN HIDDEN IN THE BANK! 'BYE FOR NOW, TORCH! SEE YOU SOON! HA-HA-HA!

MOMENTS LATER, A CHAGRINED TORCH IS REVIVED!

DID SHE GET AWAY?

YEP! AND LEFT ELEVEN DEAD MUGS BEHIND! ONLY THREE WERE CAPTURED!

TORCH IS MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO BRING THE ELUSIVE QUEEN OF CRIME TO JUSTICE! HE QUESTIONS THE CAPTURED SURVIVORS OF THE SUICIDAL MOBSTERS ON THE SPOT!

ME RAT ON DE BOSS? YER BALMY! (SIGH) I'D NEVER DO ANY-T'ING TA HOIT HER! (SIGH) SHE'S WONDER-FUL!

NEITHER THREATS NOR PROMISES AVAIL! THE ONLY RESPONSE BEING A MIXTURE OF SULLEN DEFIANCE AND THE MOANING SIGHS OF LOVE-SICK MEN!

YOU'RE CRAZY TO THINK WE'LL TELL YOU WHERE SHE IS (SIGH)!

I SAW IT BUT STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT! THOSE MUGS ARE IN LOVE WITH HER!

RIGHT! AND SO IS EVERY ONE OF HER CRIMINAL ARMY!

AND EACH READY TO DIE FOR HER! CATCHING HER WILL BE A REAL PROBLEM! OH WELL! LET'S GET SOME REST AND THEN WE'LL TRY TO FIGURE A NEW PLAN OF ACTION!

THE VESTIBULE OF TORCH'S APARTMENT HOUSE!

MAIL? ANYTHING FOR ME?

NO. JUST A NOTE FROM JIMMY WINTERS! SAYS HE MUST SEE ME RIGHT AWAY, IMPORTANT!

MAYBE I'D BETTER GO WITH YOU!

I'LL CALL IF I NEED YOU! YOU GET SOME SHUTEYE! SO LONG!

AS TORCH OPENS THE DOOR OF HIS APARTMENT!

WHAT IN---? THE QUEEN OF CRIME!

FORGIVE THE INTRUSION, TORCH! COME IN AND CLOSE THE DOOR! I'D PREFER OUR TÊTE-À-TÊTE WITHOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS!

NO NEED TO SEARCH! WE ARE QUITE ALONE!

YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO MAKE PRETTY SPEECHES!

CORRECT! I CAME TO OFFER YOU A PROPOSITION TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME! TOGETHER WE CAN RULE A CRIMINAL EMPIRE AS KING AND QUEEN! IT'S SENSELESS FOR US TO BE OPPONENTS!

I AM FLATTERED AT YOUR PROPOSAL, MADAME! IT IS WITH HUMBLE GRATITUDE AND UTMOST REGRET THAT I DECLINE!

YOU ARE THE ONLY MAN IN ALL MY EXPERIENCE THAT I COULD NOT BEND TO MY WISHES! OTHERS DIE AT MY BIDDING!

YOU **ARE** BEAUTIFUL! I ADMIT IT IS AN EFFORT TO RESIST YOUR MAGNETIC CHARM!

WELL SPOKEN AND TOUCHINGLY POETIC, TORCH! (SIGH) I FORGOT, THERE IS **NO** ALTERNATIVE! YOU **MUST** ACCEPT!

WHAT'S TO PREVENT ME FROM TURNING YOU OVER TO THE POLICE?

THE PHONE FOR ONE THING! HA-HA! PERFECT TIMING! I WAS WONDERING WHAT DELAYED THE CALL!

R-RING! R-RING!

TORO?

THE NOTE WAS A TRAP! I WAS SNATCHED BY THE GIRL'S MOB! I STILL CAN'T GET OVER THEIR ALLOWING ME TO CALL YOU! GOSH! I'M GLAD THEY DIDN'T GET **YOU**! --- (CLICK)

SO THAT'S WHY YOU FELT SAFE?

YOU SEE, I'M NOT SUCH A FOOL! YOU HAVE TWELVE HOURS TO ACCEPT OR TORO DIES! MY ADDRESS AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE ON YOUR TELEPHONE PAD!

'BYE FOR NOW, TORCH! OH-AND YES! YOU WON'T BE SO STUPID AS TO DIVULGE MY WHEREABOUTS TO THE POLICE! POOR TORO MIGHT OBJECT! HA-HA-HA!

THE NEXT HOURS FOR TORCH ARE A NIGHTMARE OF FRENZIED CONCERN FOR TORO, VYING WITH HIS ACHING BRAIN, FRUITLESSLY CHURNING FOR A WAY OUT OF THE DIABOLIC DILEMMA CONCEIVED BY THE QUEEN OF CRIME! THEN, AS THE FINAL HOUR DRAWS NEAR --- AND STILL NO SOLUTION...

TORCH'S FLAMING FIGURE ZOOMS TOWARD THE ADDRESS LEFT ON THE TELEPHONE PAD!

(GROAN) NO USE! CAN'T THINK OF A PLAN! I'LL MAKE IT APPEAR AS THOUGH I ACCEPT AND ONCE INSIDE I'LL TRY TO FIGURE SOME ANGLE!

HER INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOR ME TO ENTER BY THE FRONT DOOR! (GULP) HERE GOES! HOPE NOTHING HAPPENED TO TORO!

THIS WAY, SIR! YOU ARE EXPECTED!

WHAT A QUEER SET-UP! EVERYTHING APPEARS LEGITIMATE!

OH-OH! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

GET YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOU! BOSS'S ORDERS ARE TO CLIP YOUR WINGS! THIS IS ASBESTOS ROPE SO DON'T TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF!

A GLAD CRY OF RELIEF ESCAPES THE TWO COMPANIONS IN ADVENTURE AS TORCH IS LED INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE QUEEN OF CRIME IN HER STRANGE SETTING THAT IS HALF THRONE AND HALF CONFERENCE CHAMBER!

TORO!

TORCH! BOY, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!

WELCOME, TORCH! YOU MAY STEP FORWARD! I ASSUME YOUR COMING HERE IS AN ACCEPTANCE OF MY PROPOSAL!

I SURRENDER TO A MORE WORTHY OPPONENT!

GOOD! WE'LL GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS! MY LIEUTENANTS WILL GO OVER THE PLANS WITH YOU OF A JOB I OUT-LINED FOR YOUR INITIAL TASK!

AFTER A SWIFT GLANCE AT THE PLANS, TORCH TURNS TO THE LEADER!

TORCH SILENTLY SIGNALS TORO, SETTING THE AMAZED YOUNG-STER'S MIND AT EASE!

I'LL CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE! BUT I KNOW MY PLAN IS FOOLPROOF!

SURRENDER? JOB? SUGGES-TIONS? (GROAN) I'M DREAMING! TORCH WOULD NEVER---!

WHEW! AN ARMORED CAR JOB, EH? QUITE AN AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING! NOW THAT WE ARE PARTNERS, HOW ABOUT FREEING US OF THESE ROPES?

OF COURSE! UNTIE TORCH, BOYS! BUT NOT TORO! WE'LL KEEP THE BRAT ON ICE FOR A WHILE! AS A SORT OF HOSTAGE FOR TORCH'S GOOD CONDUCT!

SHE DIDN'T FALL FOR MY ARGUMENT TO FREE TORO! I'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE! HERE GOES!

SPLIT SECONDS LATER, TORO RESPONDS TO TORCH'S SIGNAL!

WONDER HOW TORCH EXPECTS ME TO DO ANYTHING WITH MY HANDS TIED? BUT ORDERS ARE ORDERS! UP WE GO!

YOW-OUCH!

SIMULTANEOUSLY, TORCH FLAMES INTO ACTION, SHOUTING ORDERS TO THE HANDICAPPED TORO!

KEEP MOVING FAST, TORO! I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A WINK!

SHOOT! USE THE GAS GUNS, YOU IDIOTS!

WITH MIRACULOUS SPEED AND PRECISION, TWO FLAMING BODIES ZOOM LIKE ONE, WHILE TORCH'S FINGERS TEAR FREE THE ROPES BINDING HIS PAL!

YAHOO! I'M FREE! LET'S GET BUSY TOASTING THESE CRUMBS!

NEVER MIND THEM! THE QUEEN OF CRIME IS GETTING AWAY! AFTER HER!

TORO FLAMES AFTER TORCH THROUGH A DOORWAY IN PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING LEADER!

OW-O-O-F-F-F!

TORCH! (GROAN) HE WAS STOPPED DEAD BY THAT DOOR!

MOMENTS LATER!

GOSH! I'M GLAD YOU'RE O.K.! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LEADER?

SHE WENT THROUGH THIS DOOR! I FIGURED TO BURN THROUGH AND GRAB HER! O-O-OO! MY HEAD! WONDER WHAT THE WALLS ARE PADDED WITH?

SUDDENLY A TAUNTING LAUGH ECHOES CRAZILY IN THE NARROW PADDED CONFINES!

HA-HAHAHA! I'LL TELL YOU! THICK LAYERS OF ASBESTOS PLASTER, TORCH! I PREPARED YOUR LITTLE DEATH NEST IN THE EVENT YOU TRIED TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME!

AS TORCH FLAMES TOWARD THE TAUNTING VOICE, THE LEADER YANKS A LEVER, AND---

YOU SHE-DEVIL!

NO USE TRYING TO BURN THROUGH THIS VENTILATOR, TORCH! IT'S FORGED OF ASBESTOS-TREATED MAGNESIUM! HA-HA! YOU'RE TRAPPED!

SUDDENLY A GRINDING AND CLASHING OF GEARS ARE HEARD FROM BEHIND TWO OF THE FOUR PADDED WALLS!

SHE'S RIGHT! CAN'T BURN THROUGH THE VENTILATOR! WHAT THE---?

TORCH! LOOK! THE WALLS ARE MOVING IN!

HA-HA! EVEN YOUR GREAT STRENGTH WON'T STOP IT, TORCH! GOOD-BYE! I'M OFF TO CARRY OUT THAT ARMORED JOB! WHEN I GET BACK, YOU'LL BOTH BE A MASS OF CRUSHED FLESH AND BONE! HA-HA-HA!

WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF THESE PRECIOUS MOMENTS! COME ON, GET BUSY!

TORO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT! THE ASBESTOS LAYERS MUST BE TWO FEET THICK! THE VENTILATOR'S OUR ONLY HOPE!

NO USE, TORO! WE TRIED BURNING THROUGH THAT!

UH-H- RIGHT! BUT WE MAY BE ABLE TO TEAR IT LOOSE FROM THE CEILING!

STEEL MUSCLES STAND OUT LIKE WHIPCORDS IN A FINAL SUPREME EFFORT!

UH-H- ONCE MORE- UH-H-TO-GE-TH-ER---

YAHOOOO! WE DID IT!

WHEW! THOSE WALLS'LL KISS EACH OTHER IN SECONDS!

THAT WAS FAST THINKING! COME ON! WE **MUST** STOP THAT ARMORED CAR ROBBERY!

THINK WE'LL BE IN TIME?

I'M PRAYING WE ARE! HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT BY-STANDERS MAY BE HURT IF WE FAIL!

MOMENTS LATER, ON ONE OF THE CITY'S MAIN TRAFFIC ARTERIES!

GOSH! YOU MEAN THEY PLAN TO BOMB THE TRUCK IN HEAVY TRAFFIC?

RIGHT! FIGURING TO ESCAPE IN THE EXCITE-MENT! THERE THEY ARE! LET'S GO!

JUST AS THE QUEEN OF CRIME AND HER MOBSTERS ARE ABOUT TO BOMB THE ARMORED CAR ---

GREETINGS, MADAME!

TORCH AND TORO?? IMPOSSIBLE! THEY'RE DEAD! CRUSHED BETWEEN THE WALLS!

U.S. MAIL

ARMORED CAR DE

AND SECONDS LATER...

WOW! THAT FINISHES THEM!

LATER, IN A PRISON HOSPITAL!

NICE OF YOU TO PAY A LADY A VISIT, TORCH! MY COMPLIMENTS! SCORE ANOTHER ROUND FOR YOL!

IT ISN'T JUST ANOTHER ROUND, BUT THE **FINAL** ROUND IN YOUR CAREER AS A THIEF AND MURDERESS!

THE END

SUB-MARINER

BORN OF REVENGE--TEMPERED WITH HATE--BRED IN BLOOD---
EMERGES THE LIVING HORROR OF A MADMAN'S SCIENCE!
AND WITH THIS STRANGE BEING OF HUMAN FLESH COMES
MURDER--A BAFFLING MYSTERY THAT PLUNGES THE
MIGHTY **SUBMARINER** INTO A STARTLING, THRILL-JAMMED
BATTLE--MATCHING BRAWN AND BRAIN AGAINST---

"The Headless Killer!"

OUR STORY STARTS WITH A MEDICAL COMMISSION -- AND A VERDICT!

...AND WE RULE TO REVOKE YOUR MEDICAL LICENSE, DR. BRADLEY, BECAUSE OF YOUR UNETHICAL CONDUCT!

UNETHICAL! I WAS WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF SCIENCE, DR. ROGERS!

BEHEADING ANIMALS AND TRYING TO KEEP THEIR BODIES ALIVE WAS HORRIBLE, CRUEL!

PART OF MY EXPERIMENT WAS WITH OXYGEN AND SERUM INJECTIONS TO FIND OUT IF A BODY CAN FUNCTION WITHOUT A HEAD! MY INFORMATION WOULD BE INVALUABLE, DR. ZODUS!

SORRY, BRADLEY. WE'LL LEAVE SUCH RESEARCH TO MORE HUMANE METHODS AND FAR GREATER TALENT THAN YOURS --- WE GAVE YOU WARNINGS!

RIDICULE MY TALENT, HUH! YOU'LL REGRET THIS--YOU THREE! GOOD DAY!

NOT LONG AFTER--

KENYON, I DON'T NEED YOU ANY LONGER AS MY ASSISTANT! I'M MOVING AWAY, NOW THAT MY MEDICAL CAREER IS OVER!

JUST AS WELL- I DIDN'T LIKE HIS CRACKPOT EXPERIMENTS!

IS BRADLEY DONE EXPERIMENTING? LATER, IN A CERTAIN HIDEOUT....

THE SECOND HUMAN HEAD FOUND IN 24 HOURS...MISSING BODIES HAVEN'T BEEN FOUND-- NO CLUES TO THE FIENDISH KILLER....

HA, HA---THEY WON'T FIND ME OR THE BODIES THAT BELONGED TO THE HEADS! BUT THEY'LL BE HEARING FROM US SOON!

TIME PASSES-- THEN, ONE EVENING...

BRADLEY! WHAT? YOU WANT ME AT ONCE? BUT I'M DUE AT A MEDICAL DINNER AT EAST RIVER HOTEL -- I'M ZODUS' ASSISTANT NOW!

THIS WON'T TAKE LONG! I WANT YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO WITNESS THE SUCCESS OF A REMARKABLE EXPERIMENT!

I WAS CURIOUS ENOUGH TO--GOOD LORD! A HEADLESS MAN!

AND ALIVE--ALIVE IN THE CAGE EVER SINCE I BEHEADED HIM!

COME OUT, MY GOOD FELLOW! I'VE PRESERVED HIS VOICE BOX, TRAINED HIS MOTIONS AND THINKING! HE'S READY TO EMBARK ON AN ERRAND OF DEATH AGAINST MY ENEMIES--AND YOU, KENYON, WILL TELL THE WORLD THAT I, THE GREAT BRADLEY, HAVE ACHIEVED THIS!

NO, YOU CAN'T!

HALF HOUR LATER, TWO FRIENDS MEET...

NAMOR, YOU SAID YOU'D ATTEND THE MEDICAL DINNER WITH ME WHILE I COVERED THE STORY... BUT YOU'RE NOT DRESSED FOR...

SORRY, BETTY, WHEN I HEARD IT WAS SOUP AND FISH DRESS-UP--NIX!

I'LL SWIM AROUND AND MEET YOU AFTER THE... SAY, GAL!

COME ON, SUBBY, TAKE YOUR DIP IN THE HOTEL POOL! THEN I'LL BE SURE YOU'RE AROUND LATER!

...AND NOW WE WILL HEAR FROM DR. ROGERS OF THE MEDICAL COMMISSION... UH, WHERE IS DR. ROGERS?

HE WAS CALLED TO THE PHONE!

While IN A QUIET CORRIDOR...

THE OPERATOR SAID THE PARTY HUNG UP... I'LL DASH BACK TO THE BANQU... OH, WHAT'S THAT?

OH! OH NO!

MIGHTY FIGURE HEARS THE CRY...

HELP! GASP!

I'LL BLAST THAT KILLER!

HAW!

THAT TIES YOU!

As SUBMARINER COMES OUT OF THE CRASHING BLOW.....

HE'S BEEN STRANGLED! WHO? WHAT?

I SAW A TERRIBLE CREATURE! A HEADLESS MAN! HE WAS RUNNING OUT THE DOOR! THE LEFT CORRIDOR!

THE RIVER SIDE! I'M ON MY WAY!

THE DOOR HE WENT OUT OF LEADS TO THE RIVER WALK! THE REST IS WALLED UP! I'LL SWIM ALONG THE SHORE--MAYBE CATCH UP TO THAT--THAT CREATURE!

NO SOAP! THAT FIEND GOT AWAY-- MAYBE SCALED THE WALL AT THAT--A MAN WITHOUT A---MM, HERE COMES SOMEONE!

POLICE! MURDER!

BRADLEY BEHEADED THE MAN AND KEPT HIM ALIVE?

BRADLEY HELD ME PRISONER, GUN OVER ME, WHILE HE SENT IT OUT TO KILL ROGERS! BRADLEY INTENDED RELEASING ME LATER TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT HIS WORK, BUT I JUMPED HIS GUN AND ESCAPED BEFORE... I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO....

IT IS TOO LATE! BUT PERHAPS I CAN STILL NAB BRADLEY! WHERE'S HIS PLACE?

11 HILL STREET!

A MOMENT LATER!

BRADLEY'S GONE... PLACE CLEARED OUT! BUT WHAT'S THAT NOTE?

TO THE POLICE!

TO THE POLICE!

NO DOUBT KENYON TOLD YOU I WAS HERE! HE BETRAYED ME BY LEAVING AHEAD OF TIME. BUT I'LL MAKE A SAFE GETAWAY--AND--THE HEADLESS MAN WILL STRIKE AT THE BETRAYER TONIGHT! BRADLEY

SOON AFTER KENYON ARRIVES WITH THE POLICE, AND...

THIS NOTE MUST MEAN I'M GOING TO BE MURDERED NEXT! HE REFERS TO ME AS THE BETRAYER!

SUPPOSE I OCCUPY YOUR APARTMENT! I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET MR. HEADLESS MAN AGAIN!

That NIGHT...

TWO HOURS--AND NOTHING YET! IF I HAD SOME IDEA WHERE BRADLEY COULD BE HIDING OUT NOW--MAYBE KENYON, HAVING BEEN HIS ASSISTANT, HAS SOME DATA ABOUT HIS HABITS! I'LL LOOK THROUGH KENYON'S DESK...

CREEPING CRAWFISH! THIS MEMO TO KENYON--WRITTEN SOME MONTHS AGO -- EASY ENOUGH FOR KENYON TO FORGET THIS IN HIS OWN PERIL! BUT IF BRADLEY CONSIDERS ZODUS A JUDAS -- A BETRAYER --

Kenyon: I won't be at the lab tomorrow. I have an appointment with that Judas Dr. Zodus

BRADLEY'S NOTE WAS POSSIBLY MEANT TO MISLEAD, TO PUT US ON GUARD ABOUT KENYON WHILE HE STRIKES ELSEWHERE! ZODUS' HOUSE SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND HERE!

YES, BUT DR. ZODUS IS NOT GOING TO LIVE THERE VERY LONG!

YOU TOO WILL PAY FOR TAKING BRADLEY'S MEDICAL LICENSE!

AGHHH!

SUDDENLY...

GREETINGS, NO-HEAD! HERE'S THE KNOW-HOW!

OOOF!

YIPE!

BUT BRADLEY PREPARED ME FOR THIS!

OHHH!

OH! HELP!

...WITH GAS FUMES! HEE! HA! AH! A PRETTY GIRL!

WILD SHRIEKS AROUSE THE HOUSEKEEPER!

MURDER! MERCY! STOP THAT BEAST! IT'S KIDNAPED HELEN! MURDER! MURDER!

WHILE SUBMARINER REVIVES, AND....

WHERE'D HE GO? I HAD A TUSSLE WITH HIM! HE KILLED ZODUS!

MERCY ME! AND HE'S KIDNAPED THE POOR DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER HELEN! SHE HAD JUST COME IN FROM A PARTY-- AND-- MERCY! SAVE HER!

RIGHT TO THE WATER! THE KILLER MUST HAVE ESCAPED BY BOAT! WELL, WATER'S MY HOME!

A LAUNCH--IT'S PUTTING ON MORE SPEED THAN A NORMAL CRUISING CRAFT! AND ITS RIDING LIGHTS ARE OFF! I CAN'T OVERLOOK ANYTHING! BETTER TO INVESTIGATE...

ON BOARD -- SHORTLY AFTER...

HA! I SHALL DRINK TO MY FAME! HUH! WHAT'S THAT?

CRASH!

OW-YOW!

GREETINGS! WE MEET AGAIN--FACE TO "FACE"!

WHAM!

AND NOW--YOU! WHERE'S HELEN ZODUS? IF YOU'VE KILLED HER TOO!

SHE'S ALIVE--BUT IF YOU TAKE ONE STEP NEARER, IT WILL BE HER FINISH! JUST PUSH THAT CURTAIN ASIDE--- AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!

A SIGHT OF CUNNING HORROR!

LIKE THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES OVER HER HEAD! ONE MOVE FROM YOU, FISHMAN, I RELEASE THE CORD, AND THE KNIFE FALLS ON HER!

YOU WIN, BRADLEY! I CAN'T RISK HER LIFE!

NEXT MOMENT...

GOOD! AND NOW TO DISPOSE OF THESE TWO! THE GIRL SERVED HER PURPOSE! I'VE A NICE AIR-AND-WATER-TIGHT CONCRETE COFFIN ABOARD--QUICK NOW!

IN SHORT ORDER...

WE'RE NEARING DEVIL'S ROCK! PLEASANT PLACE FOR THEIR PERMANENT GRAVE! FAREWELL, HUMAN FISH! YOU POKED YOUR NOSE ONCE TOO OFTEN IN ANOTHER'S BUSINESS!

As THE TOMB PLUNGES, THE SEA PRINCE AWAKENS!

WHERE AM I? OF ALL PLACES!

THEY CHAINED US AND TOSSED US OVERBOARD!

WE'RE DONE FOR! (GASP)

STEADY, GIRL--I'M TRYING TO--MMPH--NO GOOD--CAN'T BREAK OUT OF THESE STEEL CHAINS! STRENGTH'S TOO DEPLETED!

SUDDENLY--

WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE ROCKS SCRAPING AGAINST THIS! WE'VE HIT BOTTOM!

SCRAPE! SCRATCH!

THE LAUNCH WAS HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF DEVIL'S ROCK! COULD BE WHERE WE ARE NOW! IF SO, THERE ARE PLENTY OF JAGGED BOULDERS! I'LL TRY A CRASH--IN MY DIRECTION!

MUSTERING HIS LAST RESERVE OF STRENGTH, NAMOR TIPS THE COFFIN--- AND HITS SHARP ROCK!

IT'S DONE SOME DAMAGE! WATER'S COMING IN!

The TOUCH OF WATER--AND AN INSTANT REVIVAL OF THE SEA PRINCE'S MIGHT!

IT'S A CINCH TO BREAK OUT NOW! HOLD YOUR BREATH AND HANG ON! WE'LL BE ON THE SURFACE IN NO-TIME FLAT!

ALL RIGHT NOW? I'VE BROUGHT YOU TO A COAST GUARD STATION!

THANKS FOR SAVING ME! BUT MY POOR FATHER--IF HIS DEATH COULD BE AVENGED....

HE HAD JUST PERFECTED A CHEMICAL FORMULA HE SAID WOULD BE A REAL STRIDE FORWARD!

HIS MURDER WILL BE AVENGED, HELEN. I PROMISE THAT! BOYS, SEE THAT THIS YOUNG LADY GETS SAFELY HOME!

ANY MORE NEWS ABOUT THE HEADLESS KILLER?

WE WERE JUST RADIOED A REPORT HE STRUCK AGAIN! KILLED DR. LOGAN, 3RD MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION THAT RULED AGAINST BRADLEY! THE POLICE WERE TOO LATE!

SOUNDS LIKE BRADLEY'S REVENGE WORK IS DONE! NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT LAUNCH!

AS THE SEA PRINCE SEARCHES...

HA! FAME! FAME! AND THEY SAID I HAD NO TALENT --- I WAS NOTHING--NOBODY!

NO BODY? THAT'S ALL YOU HAD WAS A **BODY** AND NO HEAD! NO HEAD AT ALL! I **AM THE BRAINS!**

BUT I DON'T NEED YOU ANY MORE! YOU-- LIKE THE OTHERS--ARE GOING TO DIE! I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL--

NO! IT IS **YOU** WHO MUST DIE!

WHEN KILLERS FALL OUT...

...JUSTICE TRIUMPHS!

NOW TO TIE THEM BOTH UP... I'M NOT TAKING CHANCES!

But THE HEADLESS KILLER BEGINS TO STIR, AND...

CRASH!

I MUST GET OUT....

JIG'S UP! YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THIS TIME, **KENYON!**

YOU'RE EASIER TO HANDLE WITHOUT THOSE OUTER WRAPPINGS! NOW YOU CAN JOIN YOUR CHUM!

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I....

WHEN I HIT INTO YOU THE FIRST TIME I BOARDED THE LAUNCH! YOU YELLED, FORGETTING TO DISGUISE YOUR VOICE! BUT ENOUGH OF YOUR QUESTIONS! YOU'LL BE MAKING WITH ANSWERS, ASHORE!

At HEADQUARTERS-- LATER....

YES...

ALL RIGHT! BRADLEY AND I TEAMED UP WHEN HIS HEADLESS MAN DIED, SOON AFTER HE WAS LET OUT OF THE CABINET... BRADLEY WAS PLENTY DISAPPOINTED! HE'D COUNTED ON THE HEADLESS MAN KILLING OFF THE 3 DOCS! I BEGAN TO LIKE THE IDEA MYSELF...

BRADLEY HAD ANOTHER HEADLESS CORPSE, THE FIRST ONE HE'D KILLED! HE HOLLOWED IT OUT AND LINED IT WITH PLASTIC. HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE A MECHANICAL ROBOT OF IT!

AND YOU SAVED HIM THE TROUBLE-- BY STEPPING INTO IT YOURSELF!

WHY DID YOU WANT TO KILL THE 3 DOCTORS, KENYON?

FOR ZODUS' CHEMICAL FORMULA! AS HIS ASSISTANT I KNEW ALL ABOUT IT! BUT HE HAD ALSO CONFIDED IN THE OTHER 2 DOCS--WITH THEM OUT OF THE WAY, I KNEW I COULD MAKE A FORTUNE FROM IT!

AND YOUR TURNING ON BRADLEY?

I DECIDED HE WAS TOO DANGEROUS AN ALLY-- A POOR SCIENTIST--BUT NO TELLING WHAT HE'D DO NEXT!

I CAN TELL YOU WHAT YOU'LL **BOTH** DO NEXT! COOL OFF IN A CELL -- AND WARM UP IN THE HOT SEAT!

THE END

Miss AMERICA

CHAPTER 1

NEW PERIL-PACKED THRILLS AWAIT THE FAMED

'MISS AMERICA'

IN THIS LATEST ADVENTURE OF INTERNATIONAL SPY INTRIGUE — AS CUNNING MEN AND WOMEN, RUTHLESS IN THEIR GREED FOR POWER, PLAY A NEW, DEADLY GAME AGAINST THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY!

BEGIN THIS EXCITING STORY NOW!

THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES...

TAXI!

SI, SENOR. HERE!

15 MINUTES LATER...

FUNNY, I CAME BY PLANE FROM WASHINGTON, AND...

DRIVER, THIS ISN'T THE ROAD TO THE AIRPORT! WHERE ARE WE GOING?

WE? YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE GOING. STEP OUT OF THE TAXI AT ONCE, SENOR BANNING, OR I SHOOT!

YOU KNOW MY NAME! IT WAS A TRICK - TO DRIVE ME... I'M COMING OUT!

BUT I'VE A TRICK OR TWO MYSELF!

SUDDENLY...

FOOL! YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ESCAPE? WE'LL CARRY HIM TO MY CAR, ALFONSE!

SI, SI, CAIRO.

NEXT DAY AT WASHINGTON COUNTER-SPY HEADQUARTERS...

MADELEINE JOYCE!

I TOOK THE FIRST PLANE FROM NEW YORK - AS SOON AS I RECEIVED YOUR URGENT CODE WIRE. WHAT'S UP, CHIEF?

TED BANNING, ONE OF OUR OPERATORS, HAS VANISHED. HE WAS DUE TO ARRIVE FROM BUENOS AIRES BY CLIPPER, BUT NEVER EVEN BOARDED THE PLANE! BANNING WAS ON A VITAL MISSION. HE HAD OBTAINED THE NAMES OF HIGH-UP ESCAPED NAZIS LIVING **THERE.**

...AND RIGHT **HERE** IN THE U.S.!--- NAZIS POSING AS RESPECTABLE AMERICANS, BUT PLOTTING WORLD WAR III! BANNING MUST HAVE MET WITH FOUL PLAY! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM, IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE ALREADY— AND RETRIEVE THAT VITAL LIST!

THAT'S **MY** JOB—TO GO TO BUENOS AIRES?

EXACTLY! BUT IT WON'T BE EASY, MADELEINE. BANNING WORKED ALONE. THE ONLY WORD WE RECEIVED WAS HIS FINAL CODE MESSAGE THAT HIS JOB WAS DONE. YOU'LL BE STARTING FROM SCRATCH ON A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT. WILLING TO RISK IT?

OF COURSE!

I EXPECTED THAT FROM **YOU!** NOW, I SUGGEST YOU CAN BEST MEET PEOPLE BY TRAVELING AS A GAY, WEALTHY TOURIST. NO ONE MUST SUSPECT YOU'RE ALSO MISS AMERICA. GET YOURSELF A DASHING WARDROBE—AND HAPPY HUNTING!

LATER, AT AN EXCLUSIVE NEW YORK SHOP..

WHAT A LOVELY EVENING DRESS! I'LL TAKE IT.

THE SIXTH SHE'S ORDERED. THESE PLAYGIRLS—WITH NOTHING ON THEIR MINDS!

SHE'S EXACTLY THE TYPE I NEED...LIGHT-MINDED, UNSUSPECTING ...EASY-GOING ENOUGH TO...

...AND I'M LEAVING LATE TODAY!

SOMETIME AFTER...

EVERYTHING'S PACKED, MISS JOYCE. OH, THE DOOR...

RING! RING!

PROBABLY THE PORTER FOR THE BAGS.

MISS JOYCE, PLEASE FORGIVE THE INTRUSION. I'M MRS. WYATT VARNHAM, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MME. TREMONT OF LAMODE DRESS SHOP. SHE TELLS ME YOU ARE LEAVING FOR BUENOS AIRES. I KNOW I'M IMPOSING, BUT...

WHAT IS IT?

MY ONLY SISTER, A SINGER, LIVES IN BUENOS AIRES. HER BIRTHDAY IS THIS SATURDAY, BUT THE GIFT I HAD SPECIALLY ORDERED FOR HER WASN'T READY UNTIL TODAY. IT WON'T REACH HER ON TIME THROUGH THE MAILS.

IT'S THIS GOLD AND TOPAZ BRACELET. IF YOU COULD TAKE IT WITH YOU AND GET IT TO HER... MY DEAR, I **AM** IMPOSING, BUT THIS MEANS **SO** MUCH.

I'LL TAKE IT TO HER!

YOUR'E AN ANGEL! ELISE LIVES AT 3 MAGRETA ROAD. I HOPE SOMEDAY I CAN REPAY YOUR KINDNESS!

SHE IS SO GRATEFUL... IT WAS HARD TO REFUSE!

YOUR BAGS, MISS?

PORTER

SOON, MADELEINE JOYCE, THE FAMED MISS AMERICA, SETS OUT ON HER FATEFUL MISSION!

TO LAGUARDIA AIRPORT, PLEASE!

RIGHT ON TIME FOR THE PLANE. BUT I HAD A FEELING WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE TAXI THAT SOMEONE WAS WATCHING ME!

MORE WATCHFUL EYES—BUT APPARENTLY FRIENDLIER!

FLIGHT 12--BUENOS AIRES READY! ALL PASSENGERS STEP ABOARD!

HUBBA-HUBBA! THERE'S A GAL I'D LIKE TO KNOW. VERY, VERY ATTRACTIVE!

PARDON ME, YOUNG MAN... DO YOU HAVE A LIGHT?

WE'RE ON OUR WAY! THE MORE I SEE OF HER, THE MORE I...

GLAD TO KNOW YOU. I'M PETER CARR—AND TRAVELING ALONE.

THANK YOU. SINCE WE'RE FELLOW TRAVELERS, I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M JAMES ILES... THE LADY WITH ME IS MRS. ILES.

THOSE TWO ARE MEETING AS IF FOR THE FIRST TIME. YET THROUGH THIS MIRROR I SAW ILES HAND CARR A SLIP OF PAPER WHILE GETTING A LIGHT. I SHOULD MEET THESE PEOPLE.

ONE WAY TO START THINGS ROLLING...

OH—MY LIPSTICK!

I HAVE IT!

WHAT A BREAK FOR ME!

PERMIT ME.. BUT YOUR LIPS DON'T NEED THIS ARTIFI-CIAL AID!

FLATTERER!

I CONFESS I LIKED YOU THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU. I'M REALLY **GLAD** YOU DROPPED YOUR LIP-STICK!

YOU DO SAY NICE THINGS!

HE **IS** ATTRACTIVE!

ABOVE THE CLOUDS... FRIENDSHIP GROWS, MIXING CAUTION AND ATTRACTION!

...AND I'M A WRITER. LIVED IN CALIFORNIA ALL MY LIFE. BUT I'M WORKING ON A NOVEL NOW WITH AN ARGENTINE SETTING AND NEED SOME REAL ATMOSPHERE.

WELL, MY TRIP HAS NO PURPOSE. JUST PLEA-SURE.

HOURS LATER...

CARR'S MADE REAL HEADWAY WITH THAT JOYCE GIRL. I SLIPPED HIM A NOTE TELL-ING HIM SHE'S THE ONE TO KNOW. WE'LL HANDLE THE REST!

...AND NOTHING HAD BETTER GO WRONG! JAMES, WE'RE LANDING!

FROM OUT OF THE CLOUDS GLIDES THE CLIPPER - WITH ITS PASSENGER LOAD OF MYSTERY - INTRIGUE - PERILOUS ADVENTURE!

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS

SOON, AT THE GRANDE PALAZZIA HOTEL...

AM I GLAD WE'RE STOPPING AT THE SAME PLACE! DON'T FORGET WE'VE A DINE-DANCE DATE TONIGHT.

SOUNDS LIKE FUN! LET'S CHECK IN!

I'LL PUT DOWN MY JOHN HANCOCK RIGHT AFTER YOURS!

HE PUT DOWN HIS GLOVES, AND THAT'S VERY INTERESTING...

...BECAUSE HE SAID HE LIVES IN CALIFORNIA - BUT THOSE NEW-LOOKING GLOVES HAVE A BRUSSELS STAMP, AND L.R. CERTAINLY AREN'T PETER'S INITIALS!

DINNERTIME...

THERE'S CERTAINLY A GOOD DEAL TO SUSPECT ABOUT PETER. OH DEAR ..BUT HE **IS** SO ATTRACTIVE. I HOPE MY SUSPICIONS OF HIM ARE UNFOUNDED!

MUST BE READY FOR ANY EMERGENCY!

WHILE AT THE SAME TIME...

MANUEL! YOU MADE EXCELLENT TIME TO BUENOS AIRES! NEARLY AS GOOD AS THE CLIPPER... THE JOYCE GIRL HAS ARRIVED!

HA, THEN THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE! **TONIGHT!**

PAN-AM

DANGER LURKS EVERYWHERE FOR MISS AMERICA ON HER DARING MISSION!
DON'T MISS THE NEXT EXCITING EPISODE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARVEL NO.77 OCT.!

KING NEPTUNE'S JUSTICE

THE third mate smiled faintly as he watched the group below him. It was a hot, sunny day in the tropics and they were all dressed gaily in colorful shirts and brightly-colored slacks. Tomorrow the ship would cross the equator and everyone was getting ready for the program that was to take place. The Shellbacks, those who had crossed the equator before, would be in charge of initiating the Pollywogs, the passengers who were crossing it for the first time, and it was always a gay occasion. Tim pushed his hat back, remembering his own initiation a few years before. It had been fun but this looked as though it would be gayer than ever.

He walked out on the wing of the bridge and looked forward. It was a big ship and a new one. The passenger list was studded with famous names and all of them were wealthy. It was a carefree, fun-loving crowd. He looked up as the second mate came out on the bridge.

"Okay, Tim, you can go back to your social life now!" he chuckled. "I like these people fine but it's a relief to get up here where it's quiet for a change! Are you all ready for the initiation tomorrow? You're in charge, you know!"

"Yeh, you guys got out of that pretty!" Tim groused. "Just because I'm junior officer, I'm let in for all the grief! Oh, well, I get a kick out of it!"

Jansen looked after Tim and chuckled. The detail would take a lot of work but it was all part of the life aboard a luxury liner.

Tim walked down the ladder to A deck and lifted his hand to his cap at some people who nodded to him. Tim chuckled at their discomfiture. They all knew that he was arranging King Neptune's reception but some of them were a little fearful as to how far things would go. The shellbacks told gruesome stories of initiations at which they had been present, and though most of the lubbers scoffed, a few of them had private misgivings.

He turned into the lounge and found a large group awaiting his arrival. These were the shellbacks, his assistants, and they were there to make the final plans for the following day. Tim took his uniform cap off and smiled at the group. Some of them he knew from previous trips but he knew that all of them would cooperate in making the occasion a success.

"All of you know what you have to do, more or less," he began. "You, sir, are King Neptune and know what you'll have to do, having done it before!" Pointing to another. "And you are Davy Jones, keeper of the locker. The rest of you will be deputized as my assistants. We'll have to chase the bashful customers and see that no one is neglected! You're all old salts now, so we won't have any trouble!"

"Aye, aye, cap'n!" Davy Jones answered. "One question . . . Are the costumes ready?"

"You'll all draw your gear tomorrow morning before the activities start," Tim answered. "The program will start early tomorrow morning!"

The next morning at about ten the the ship coasted to a halt in the water. Over the ship's public address system came the announcement. "Stand by to repel boarders!" King Neptune and his party paraded out on the bridge and took the ship over in a formal ceremony. The Jolly Roger, official flag of the sea god, was raised and the ship's colors were hauled down. The ceremony was officially under way.

Tim and his policemen went to work. Passengers ran down passageways, laughing, and

Tim dispatched his men after them in groups. He consulted a list of Pollywogs in his hand and beckoned to three pirates hurrying by.

"Go down to C deck and round up everyone you find down there, me hearties!" he ordered. The three salts looked at one another doubtfully.

"C deck! Where's that, downstairs?" one questioned.

"Nah," another said. "That's upstairs, stupid! C'mon, let's go!"

Tim laughed as they went down the passageway. It took all kinds, he thought. Then he shrugged and turned back to the business at hand. His assistants were everywhere, dressed in pirate clothes, bandanas around their heads and black masks covering the upper halves of their faces. A murderous-looking bunch, but everyone was laughing as they were ducked and mauled. One was just getting an application of eggs and coal oil as he was dumped into the tank for the final stage of the initiation.

Tim was still laughing when a woman's scream cut through the uproar. He wheeled but then stopped and chuckled. Probably one of the passengers who thought it was a little too realistic to be fun. Then, another scream, and Tim turned and ran down the passageway on C deck. It was just possible that something was wrong and Tim, as a ship's officer, knew it was his duty to find out what the trouble was. He turned a corner and ran into a woman running in the opposite direction. At the sight of Tim she cowered back against a wall and screamed again. Tim pushed the mask up on his forehead and leaned his wooden sword against the wall.

"A-are you one of them?" she moaned. "If you are . . . Oh, thank heaven, it's a ship's officer! I've been robbed . . . three men dressed just as you are came into my room and took all of my jewels! One of them put his sword to my throat and said I'd be a . . . uh . . . goner if I made a noise! Please do something!"

Tim wheeled and dashed for the bridge. He grabbed the second mate and gave him swift, concise directions, then ran for the deck where the initiation was taking place. He had just gotten there when the ship's public address system blared an announcement.

"King Neptune commands that all of his doughty deputies be present at the Mighty Monarch's throne, immediately!" King Neptune looked startled as Tim came around behind him and whispered in his ear.

"You have been summoned here," he began, "because a crime has been committed on the high seas and it naturally falls within my jurisdiction! Prosecutor, take over!"

Tim stepped forward and looked at the laughing deputies gathered in front of him. He scanned them carefuly, then pointed to three men.

"You . . . you . . . and you! Step out!" he barked. Four of the ship's crew appeared at the third mate's side and frisked the men. Tim grabbed one and, running his hands around the man's waist, brought out a necklace while the seamen came up with rings and earrings. The seamen produced handcuffs and roughly secured the hands of the prisoners. The spectators laughed nervously. King Neptune rose and pounded heavily on the deck with his staff.

"Shellbacks and Pollywogs!" he boomed. "I want you all to know that you've just witnessed as clever a piece of detective work as I've ever seen! That arrest you just witnessed was *not* part of the ceremonies. It was real and those men now being marched to the ship's brig were apprehended after the daring robbery of a passenger's jewels!"

The ship's captain stepped out and grasped Tim's hand. He clapped Tim on the shoulder and turned to the crowd. "I'm sure that everyone here is just as curious as I am to know how you knew the identity of the thieves so quickly?"

"It wasn't hard, captain!" Tim laughed. "When a couple of my deputies who are supposed to be old salts said 'downstairs' for 'below' and 'upstairs' for 'topside,' I naturally became suspicious, especially when they're supposed to have been to sea before!"

THE END

YOUNG ALLIES

THE YOUNG ALLIES START ON A PLEASURE CRUISE AND END UP BATTLING FOR THEIR LIVES AGAINST AN UNKNOWN TERROR! ON A TINY ISLAND OFF THE COAST, THEY STUMBLE ON A SPINE-CHILLING NAMELESS HORROR AS THEY ARE STALKED BY THE...

"MAD MONSTER of the ISLAND!"

THE YOUNG ALLIES ARE OUT SAILING IN THEIR OWN HOME-MADE SAILBOAT!

SAILING! SAILING! OVER THE BOUNDING MAIN...

HARD APORT, MEN! THAT MEANS LEFT, IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW IT!

OKAY! ...ER... I MEAN AYE AYE, SIR!

BUT THE BOYS ARE NOT AS GOOD SAILORS AS THEY THINK!

YIIII!

OOF!

WHACK!

A FINE BUNCH OF SAILORS YOU ARE! WELL, I'VE GOT 'ER UNDER CONTROL NOW!

AW, DIS SAIL-IN' STUFF IS DA BUNK!

DON'T BODDER ME ANY-MORE WHILE I READ DA FUNNIES IN DA PAPER!

FINAL - TIMELY NEWS - FINAL

YOUNG HEIRESS STILL MISSING!

ABDUCTION FEARED POLICE COMBING CITY FOR YOUNG PATRICIA VAN DYKE

BUT MORE TROUBLE COMES TO THE AMATEUR YACHTSMEN!

WE SPRUNG A LEAK!

I KNEW IT! WHY DIDN'T WE STAY ON DRY LAND?

GOSH, WE'D BETTER HEAD FOR THAT ISLAND!

HEY, BOYS! THAT'S DEVIL'S ISLAND! DON'T GO NEAR IT!

WHY NOT?

THE BOYS HEAR A STRANGE, GRIM WARNING FROM THE FISHERMAN!

FOLKS SAY THERE'S A MONSTER ON THE ISLAND! YE CAN HEAR IT ROAR! IT'S SURE DEATH TO STAY THERE! WE'LL SEND THE COAST-GUARD TO PICK YE UP!

MONSTER! HUH! JUST AN OLD SUPERSTITION, I SUPPOSE!

SURE! BESIDES, WE HAD TO LAND AND FIX THIS LEAK!

DERE AIN'T NO MONSTER ON DIS ISLAND!

(GULP)... LOOK! A F-FOOTPRINT... LIKE A MONSTER WOULD MAKE!

ROARRRRRRRRR

HOLY SMOKE!

LISTEN! IS TH-THAT A ROAR?

BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT ARE THE YOUNG ALLIES FRIGHTENED! THEN THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE SWEEPS OVER THEM, AND...

WHAT D'YA SAY, FELLAS? DO WE GET A LOOK AT THIS MONSTER OR DON'T WE?

I'M GAME!

ME TOO! LET'S GO!

BUT STALKING THE MONSTER, THEY COME UPON A DIFFERENT MENACE!

HEY, YA PUNKS! GET OFF THIS ISLAND!

HOLY MACKEREL! DEVIL DAN, THE BIG-SHOT CROOK! I SAW HIS PICTURE ONCE, IN THE ROGUE'S GALLERY!

OH, YA KNOW ME, EH? THEN YA CAN'T LEAVE THE ISLAND... YEOWWWW!

SHOOT US DOWN IN COLD BLOOD, WOULD YOU?

THE FLAME-BOY MAKES THE DESPERADOES DROP THEIR OVERHEATED WEAPONS!

OWWW!

YIPE!

AND THE YOUNG ALLIES FOLLOW UP WITH THUNDERING FISTS!

YAHOO!

THE COWARDLY CRIMINALS FLEE!

DEVIL DAN HIDING OUT ON DEVIL'S ISLAND! WON'T THE POLICE BE TICKLED TO HAVE THAT INFORMATION!

THE KIDS ARE POISON! RUN FOR IT!

AFTER THEM!

SOON...

THEY RAN INTO THAT CAVE!

ROARRRRR!

(G-GULP!) THE MONSTER IS IN THERE!

GOSH, THAT'S FUNNY! THE CROOKS RAN RIGHT IN! HAVE THEY GOT THE MONSTER TRAINED OR SOMETHING?

I WONDER! WELL, IF **THEY** HAVE THE NERVE TO FACE THE MONSTER, SO HAVE **WE**! LET'S GO, FELLAS!

AND BRAVELY, THE YOUNG ALLIES INVADE THE SHUDDERY DEN OF THE UNKNOWN MONSTER!

M-MAYBE WE SHOULD GO BACK!

DON'T BE SCAIRT, TUBBY. WE CAME DIS FAR, SO LET'S FINISH DA JOB!

ROARRRR!

HEY! THIS LOOKS LIKE DEVIL DAN'S HEADQUARTERS!

BUT WHERE'S DEVIL DAN HIMSELF?

HERE I AM! FELL INTO OUR TRAP, DIDN'T YA?

UGG!

TORO! FLAME ON!

CAN'T, BUCKY! CAVE IS DAMP...MOISTURE SETTLED ON ME... UGH!

HAH! GOT 'EM ALL!

INTO THE PRISON ROOM WITH THEM!

ANOTHER SURPRISE MEETS THE BOYS HERE!

A GOIL! WHO IS SHE?

I'M PATRICIA VAN DYKE!

THE KIDNAPED HEIRESS! SO DEVIL DAN PULLED THAT JOB!

YEAH! I SENT A RANSOM NOTE! THEY'LL PAY UP TONIGHT! I'M GONNA GO AND COLLECT LATER! NOBODY KNOWS THIS IS MY HIDEOUT, EXCEPT YOU!

BUT YA AIN'T GONNA LIVE TO TELL IT! THESE LIZARDS ARE POISONOUS! YA'LL ALL DIE... THE GIRL TOO! THEY WON'T GET HER BACK TO SQUEAL ON ME!

EEK!

WE'RE ALL SUNK IF THE LIZARDS REACH US! TORO...

I'M FLAMING! THIS PLACE IS DRYER THAN THE OTHER CAVE! NOW TO SHRIVEL UP THESE BABIES INTO A CINDER!

OUT WE GO NOW!

C'MON, FELLAS! LET'S GET DEVIL DAN!

NOW TONIGHT, WHEN IT'S DARK, WE COLLECT THE RANSOM AT THE DOCKS...

BOSS... LOOK! THE KIDS ESCAPED!

VENGEFULLY, THE YOUNG ALLIES PILE INTO THE CRIMINAL GANG!

HANDS OFF, BOYS! DEVIL DAN IS MINE... EXCLUSIVE!

GHAAA!

OH, YOU WONDER-FUL BOYS!

THAT'S THAT! BUT, HEY... WAIT! WE FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE MONSTER! WHERE IS IT?

BUCKY MAKES AN ASTOUNDING REVELATION!

THERE WAS NO MONSTER AT ALL, FELLAS! SEE? THEY ONLY USED THIS SIREN TO MAKE THE "ROAR"!

AND THEY USED THIS THING TO MAKE THE "FOOT-PRINTS" ALL OVER THE ISLAND! THEY WERE JUST PLAY-ING UP THE OLD LEGEND OF THIS ISLAND, TO SCARE EVERYBODY AWAY!

LATER, WHEN THE COAST GUARD ARRIVES...

GOOD WORK, BOYS! YOU CAPTURED DEVIL DAN AND HIS GANG!

THEY ALSO RESCUED ME! WHAT GALLANT BOYS!

AW... ER... IT WAS NOTHING!

THE END

THE ANGEL

I AM BLIND

BLIND FOR LIFE! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE ANGEL WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN? BUT EVEN SO, HE IS READY TO FACE ANY DANGER WITH HIS REMAINING FOUR SENSES------FOR JUSTICE IS BLIND TOO-----YET BOTH CAN "SEE" THROUGH A NEFARIOUS SCHEME TO SOLVE A BAFFLING PUZZLE... "SIGHT UNSEEN!"

R-344

IN THE ANGEL'S APARTMENT----

I'VE KNOWN CAPTAIN CARTER FOR YEARS, AND HE'S AS SQUARE AS THEY COME! I BETTER TAKE A RUN OUT TO HIS HOUSE AND SEE WHAT THIS MEANS!

5 DAIL
POLICE CA
KILLED IN GU
BATTLE. CHAR
HE WAS AIDE
TO UNDERWORLD
CHIEFTAINS

LATER----

--AND THEY THINK THAT HE WAS GIVING PROTECTION TO SOME BIG-TIME CROOK. HE LEFT THIS IN CASE ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO HIM. IT'S FOR YOU.

ME? WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE?

CANCELLED CHECKS MADE OUT TO "MARTY SHORE". "ANGEL, FOLLOW THIS LEAD. MAY BREAK THE BIGGEST CASE ON THE DOCKET."

MY HUSBAND WAS WORKING ON THIS CASE. IT MAY EVEN BE THE REASON FOR HIS DEATH!

THESE CHECKS ARE ALL FOR THE ***SAME*** AMOUNT PAID BY STORE-KEEPERS TO THE ***SAME*** MAN. SOUNDS LIKE THE PROTECTION RACKET. I'M GOING TO CLEAR PETE'S NAME IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

A FEW HOURS LATER-----

I DON'T GET IT. I SHOWED THOSE CHECKS TO THE OWNERS OF FOUR STORES, AND THEY WON'T TALK. WELL, I'LL TRY AGAIN.

DAMON'S SODA SHOP

YOU MADE IT OUT, DIDN'T YOU? THEN SURELY YOU MUST KNOW WHO GOT ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS OF YOUR HARD-EARNED MONEY!

I FORGET--TOO LONG AGO! NOW GO AWAY AND QUIT BOTHERING ME!

AND AGAIN, IN ANOTHER STORE---

BUT CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND --I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!

I-I'M SORRY. JUST CAN'T REMEMBER, THATS ALL!

THEN, AT ANOTHER STORE----

MAYBE I CAN GET A LEAD HERE.

HERE HE COMES NOW. I'LL GRAB THAT ENVELOPE WHEN YOU DOUSE HIM!

SAY, CAN YOU TELL ME---**OW---MY EYES, MY EYES!**

I GOT THE ENVELOPE---COME ON, LETS GET OUTA HERE FAST!

QUICK! HAND ME A BASE LIQUID TO NEUTRALIZE THIS ACID BEFORE IT CAN BURN HIS EYES OUT!

HURTS---- JUST HOW BAD IS IT?

CAN'T SAY, BUT A WEEK WILL TELL THE STORY. BETTER GET A GOOD DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY!

I CALLED FOR THE POLICE AND AN AMBULANCE!

LATER---

FORTUNATELY, THE DRUGGIST ACTED QUICKLY. BUT IT WILL TAKE A WEEK BEFORE I'LL KNOW IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN!

CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG! VISION OR NOT, I'M GOING AFTER THAT MOB!

A
BDEF

THIS IS MIKE QUILLIGAN ON THE OTHER ARM, ANGEL. GOOD FRIEND OF THE DEPARTMENT. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT EASY A WEEK?

NO GOOD. THOSE PUNKS GRABBED SOME CHECKS, BUT I HAVE OTHERS AND I'M STRIKING, WHILE THE IRON'S HOT.

THE NEXT DAY----

I'M GOING TO RUN DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS. I HEAR AN ENGINE RUNNING. TAXI! IS THAT A TAXI?

YEAH, THIS IS A TAXI! HOP IN, BUDDY.

THIS IS A GUN, WISE-GUY, SO NO SQUAWKS. GET IN HERE AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

WHAT TH----! I GUESS I WALKED RIGHT INTO A TRAP!

MINUTES LATER-----

I CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOING, BUT I CAN REMEMBER DETAILS! THREE RIGHT TURNS, THE SMELL OF SWAMPS. THEN A BRIDGE ABOUT A HALF MILE LONG FOLLOWED BY A STRETCH OF CONCRETE HIGHWAY---NOW THIS TURN!

WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING ABOUT 45 MINUTES. CAN SMELL SALT AIR---AND T-THIS M-MUST BE A C-C-CORDUROY R-ROAD!

THEN...

COME ON! GET OUTA THERE.

HERE Y'ARE, MARTY! HE'S AS BLIND AS A BAT!

FINE WORK, BOYS. NOW, *MISTER* ***ANGEL,*** YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE THE REST OF THOSE CANCELLED CHECKS ARE HIDDEN!

I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TIME---- WHOEVER YOU ARE---**OW!**

BAH! TOSS HIM IN THE BAY! NO ONE WILL MISS HIM AND WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO FIND THE CHECKS!

MOMENTS LATER---

WON'T HE NEED A WEIGHT ON HIS FEET TO KEEP HIM DOWN?

NAW! HE'LL FLOAT ON HIS FACE AND DROWN. THE TIDE WILL CARRY HIM AWAY FROM HERE!

UUH! BARNACLES ON THOSE PILINGS---MAYBE I CAN PUT THEM TO USE IF I CAN STAY CLOSE TO THE POLES!

FIGHTING AGAINST THE TIDE WITH LUNGS STRAINING FOR AIR, THE ANGEL DESPERATELY RUBS HIS BOUND WRISTS INTO THE SHARP EDGE OF THE BARNACLES----

IF I CAN ONLY STAY BRACED HERE FOR A MOMENT LONGER----

THEN----

MADE IT! THAT AIR SMELLS GOOD! WHAT'S THIS? MUST BE A SMALL LANDING PIER UNDER THE DOCK!

NOW A BLIND ANGEL GOES TO WORK!

YOU STAY HERE, JOE. WE'LL PICK UP THE DOUGH AND COME BACK, AND SPLIT IT!

OKAY, MARTY!

HE MUST BE MARTY SHORE, THE GUY I'M AFTER! SOMEHOW HIS VOICE SOUNDS FAMILIAR!

AS SOON AS THE GANG LEAVES---

I THINK I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT ONE GUY THEY LEFT HERE!

THE LIGHT SWITCH--- AH, GOT IT! THIS WILL MAKE THINGS EVEN----

WHA-----? THE ANGEL AGAIN!

THE SOUND OF THAT SHOT GAVE YOU AWAY, CHUM!

THE LIGHTS ARE OUT-----CAN'T SEE IN THE DARK!

BANG!

THIS DOES MAKE US EVEN, DOES'NT IT? ONLY I'M USED TO THE DARK AND YOU'RE NOT!

OW!

NOT SO BAD FOR A BLIND MAN, IS IT? NOW TO FIND THE PHONE AND GET THE POLICE UP THIS WAY BEFORE THE REST GET BACK!

UGH!

THE ANGEL GROPES FOR THE PHONE, FINDS IT, AND---

TAKE THE HIGH-WAY WEST. MAKE THREE RIGHT TURNS, PASS THE SWAMPS OVER A BRIDGE ONTO A HIGHWAY, A SHARP TURN OVER A CORDUROY ROAD TO A BAY!

WHY, THAT'S THE OLD ROUTE TO THE SEA FOOD INN! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, ANGEL!

BUT BEFORE THE POLICE CAN ARRIVE...

WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS? HEY, JOE, WHERE ARE YOU?

HE'S OUT FOR THE MOMENT, GENTLE-MEN! CAN I HELP YOU?

IT'S THE ANGEL!

IN PERSON-- AND READY TO RECEIVE YOU PROPERLY!

GET HIM, YOU FOOLS! GET HIM!

WHY DON'T YOU GET INTO THIS, MARTY SHORE?

THEN---

GET 'EM UP!

THE COPS!

SLAM

MIKE QUILLIGAN! WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING HERE?

ARREST THAT MAN, DICKENSON. THIS IS MY PLACE AND HE CAME IN HERE AND TRIED TO KILL US ALL.

SO THAT'S WHO HE IS!

ONE OF THESE GUYS IS MARTY SHORE, THE ONE WHO'S BEEN RUNNING THE PROTECTION RACKET IN THE CITY. MAKE THEM HOLD OUT THEIR HANDS, PALMS DOWN AND I'LL IDENTIFY HIM.

OKAY, ANGEL. YOUR WORD IS GOOD WITH ME. GO AHEAD, YOU HEARD HIM!

MARTY SLAPPED ME AND CUT MY CHEEK WITH HIS RING. AH! THIS IS IT!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE-- HE'S MIKE QUILLIGAN! DID THE DEPARTMENT A LOT OF FAVORS!

SURE, WHENEVER HE THOUGHT HE COULD GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT! BUT CARTER FOUND HIM OUT AND HAD TO BE RUBBED OUT!

FURTHERMORE, HE WAS THE ***ONLY*** ONE EXCEPT THE POLICE THAT KNEW I HAD THE BAD CHECKS. I TOLD HIM AT THE DOCTORS OFFICE!

TAKE 'EM AWAY, BOYS!

AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER-----

TAKE IT EASY NOW. OPEN YOUR EYES SLOWLY. DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?

WAIT A MINUTE. YES! LIGHT---- THINGS ARE TAKING SHAPE NOW. BLURRED---BUT I CAN SEE! I'M NOT BLIND!

I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR CLEARING PETE!

I SOLVED THAT CASE *SIGHT UNSEEN*. I'M READY FOR ANYTHING, NOW!

THE END

BOYS! GIRLS!

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.... I JUST PAINT THE INDIAN MODEL IN THE KIT WITH LIQUID RUBBER LIKE THIS!
LOOKS EASY!
YOU SAID IT! WHEN THE RUBBER DRIES, I STRIP IT OFF AND I'VE GOT A RUBBER MOLD OF THE INDIAN.
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THAT?
JUST POUR KWIK-MOLD INTO IT. THEN WHEN IT DRIES, I REMOVE THE RUBBER.
DOES THAT MAKE A CAST OF THE INDIAN?
YUP - JUST LIKE MAGIC! NOW I PAINT THE INDIAN. SHUCKS, I CAN MAKE HUNDREDS OF 'EM FROM THIS ONE MOLD—SELL 'EM, TOO! YOU CAN REPRODUCE ANYTHING WITH RUBBER-FOR-MOLDS.
GEE, THAT LOOKS LIKE FUN. I'M GOING TO ORDER ME A KIT TODAY!

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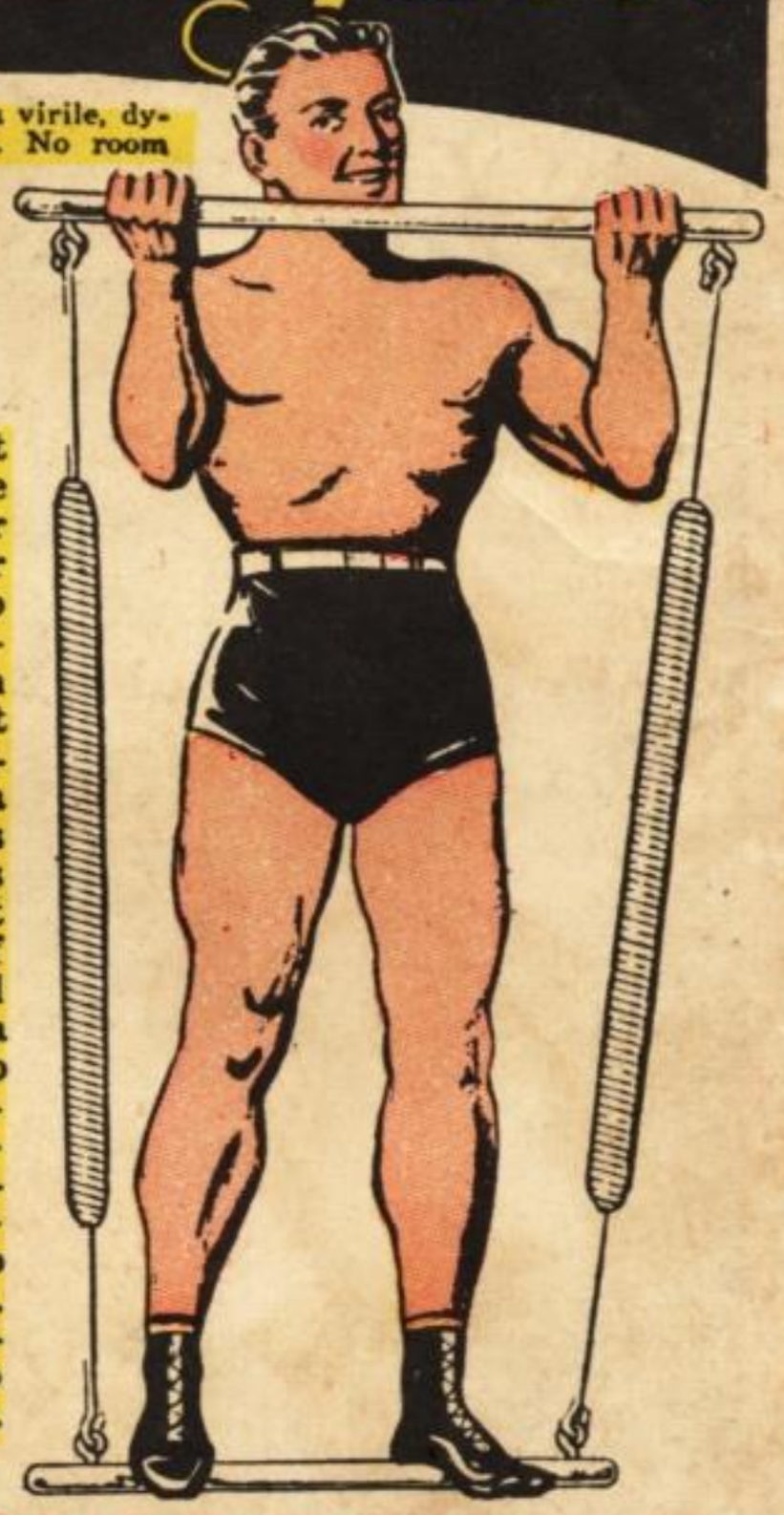

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